

**Department of Natural Resources**  
**Summary of Accomplishments**  
**2001-2004**

***In December 2001, DNR adopted an ambitious set of strategic goals, consistent with our "Mission and Principles," to guide our work providing the benefits to the citizens of Washington called for by our legal direction. Since 2001, and despite legislative budget reductions, DNR has achieved a solid record of accomplishments toward those goals. This report summarizes fifty of those accomplishments. While department employees can proudly point to a much larger collection of accomplishments, this summary captures the overall flavor of the agency's successes in meeting our goals. DNR continues to be guided by our strategic direction in continually improving our performance on behalf of the citizens we serve.***

**GOAL: The public we serve widely and consistently holds DNR in high esteem.**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Increased public access to DNR-managed geographic and natural resources data by making the data available on-line, including survey information, maps, and aerial photos. This freed up staff time previously used processing public requests for information. Partnered with Department of Transportation in making photos and maps available on-line, to cut overhead costs.
- Produced a variety of valuable geologic maps for public use, including a preliminary statewide earthquake hazard map, and the final digital 1:100,000 scale geologic maps to complete statewide coverage. DNR was also one of the top three recipients in the country of federal grants to produce geological maps, and collaborated with the University of Washington to produce 1:24,000 scale geologic maps of the Puget Sound lowlands.
- Worked hard with the public to keep popular recreation sites open despite legislative budget cuts, and increased the use of volunteers in our recreation program. For example, Pacific Cascade Region recorded 4,750 volunteer hours.

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- Supported Jefferson and Clallam County in developing the Olympic Discovery Trail across DNR lands in Olympic Region.
- Proposed legislation to create the Legacy Trust for Recreation and Conservation, which would provide substantial permanent funding to improve recreation opportunities on DNR-managed lands and provide stewardship of Natural Areas.
- Awarded over 60 grants to cities and towns throughout Washington to improve their neighborhoods by establishing healthy urban forests.
- Produced the latest Natural Heritage Plan for broad use in identifying and protecting the most critical elements of Washington's natural heritage.
- Created the Washougal Oaks Natural Area Preserve in southwest Washington, preserving an example of a unique ecosystem.
- Completed management plans for the Loomis State Forest's Natural Resource Conservation Area and Chopaka Natural Area Preserve in Northeast Region.
- With the critical assistance of the Cascade Land Conservancy, acquired the Crown Lakes property in the Mountains to Sound Greenway, adding 600 acres of scenic and environmentally important land adjacent to the Mount Si Natural Resource Conservation Area in South Puget Sound Region.
- In conjunction with Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson, the Audubon Society, WFPA, and others, launched the Pacific Education Institute, to support and improve environmental education in Washington.
- Completed a cultural resources protection and management plan for private forestlands emphasizing voluntary landowner-tribe agreements for assessing and protecting cultural resources at the landscape level.
- Held a high-level meeting with all western Washington Indian tribes to discuss, prioritize, and begin resolution of major tribal issues involving DNR. Followed up with tribe-by-tribe problem solving meetings.

**GOAL: Lands and Trust assets are continually enhanced and managed to generate substantial financial support for current and future trust beneficiaries.**

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Through careful management of state trust lands, DNR provided \$471 million in revenue to schools, counties, universities and others. DNR provided \$136 million for statewide school construction; \$191 million for counties and other

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- local taxing districts; \$22 million for the University of Washington and Washington State University, and \$122 million for other beneficiaries.
- Increased revenue from timber harvest by \$15 million, in part through active marketing, while reducing operating costs by 41% and staffing levels by 25%.
  - Increased revenue from commercial and agricultural leasing by 19% while reducing management costs by 13%. This included signing the agency's first wind power lease, and repositioning irrigation water to enable development of 1,000 acres of premium vineyards.
  - Increased the value of state trust assets by almost \$10 million through land exchanges. Produced an Asset Allocation Strategy and seven regional assessments to guide transactions, which make trust land assets more productive.
  - Generated about \$60 million revenue from Aquatic Lands, providing funding for fish and wildlife management, spartina control in Willapa Bay, boating safety and recreation, and grants to local governments for public access and habitat improvements.

**GOAL: UPLAND RESOURCES provide substantial levels of trust revenue, conservation, and public benefits consistent with our fiduciary duty and legal commitments.**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Neared completion of the most carefully reviewed and publicly accessible calculation of a sustainable forestry harvest calculation in 20 years, providing for both improved forest health and greater flows of timber.
- Continued to implement DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan, in concert with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries, providing protection for salmon, northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and a number of other wildlife species.
- Created a new environmental review requirement for DNR timber sales to incorporate a view of the entire landscape when considering impacts.
- Conducted \$3 million of ecologically beneficial forest thinning and other silvicultural activities.
- Increased the standing inventory of forests on DNR-managed lands throughout the state.

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- Eliminated 251 fish blockages on the DNR road system to open up many miles of streams to salmon, while also abandoning hundreds of miles of roads to improve stream habitat conditions.
- Took important steps in reducing carbon in the atmosphere as part of a major west coast study on storing carbon in forests, and through pursuing leases for wind power generation on state lands.
- Launched a planning effort to integrate recreation and forest harvest activities on DNR lands at Blanchard Mountain in Northwest Region, based on a ground breaking study of the relative economic values of recreation, ecosystem protection, and sustainable forestry, produced in collaboration with the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance.
- Completed a consensus planning effort for DNR lands in the Lake Whatcom watershed to protect water quality and sensitive slopes.

### **GOAL: AQUATIC RESOURCES are managed to optimize the full range of public benefits.**

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Created the new Aquatic Reserve program, and nominated four sites across Puget Sound for inclusion.
- Launched the new Derelict Vessels program to remove threats to human safety and the environment, and funded the removal of 18 abandoned vessels in the first year.
- Economically settled state financial responsibility at six contaminated sediment sites in Puget Sound, allowing cleanup actions to be completed. Took the lead in cleanup of the head of Middle Waterway in Commencement Bay.
- Secured shoreline permits for geoduck harvest in Kitsap County and the City of Bainbridge Island.
- Through partnerships with the Washington Public Ports Association and individual ports, competed new Port Management Agreements allowing ports to continue to support trade-related job growth. Also facilitated a land exchange with the Port of Port Angeles to allow development of a convention center and significantly improve public access to the waterfront.
- Collected over \$750,000 in back rent from Port Management Areas and increased annual revenue by 35%.
- Eliminated the backlog of easement requests over state-owned aquatic lands.

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- Completed the first Submerged Vegetation Monitoring Report (eelgrass) with the first three years of data for Puget Sound.
- Developed a new rule on residential use of aquatic land resolving the longstanding issue about live-aboard vessels.
- Created the first conservation leasing program on aquatic lands in the United States, and initiated a habitat restoration program on aquatic lands.

**GOAL: Losses to life from fire are prevented and property loss is minimized.**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Reduced catastrophic forest fires by 40% during years of unusual drought, thereby protecting property and ecosystem values throughout Washington. Responded promptly to wild fire starts, keeping over 96% under 10 acres.
- Provided \$1.6 million in surplus equipment to 58 Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts in 13 Washington counties.
- Acquired surplus cobra helicopters from the federal government and refitted them for rapid fire suppression response.
- Provided an increased recovery of wildland fire suppression costs by better coordinating between DNR's law enforcement, fire control, attorney, and region staff.

**GOAL: Forest systems enjoy equal or greater health and productivity.**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Provided over 1,000 family foresters with technical assistance for forest health improvement, habitat improvement, and forest management. DNR's Forest Stewardship Program received national recognition for helping family forestland owners achieve objectives of the Endangered Species Act.
- Due to partnerships with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, completed an amendment to our Habitat Conservation Plan to allow forest management activities in

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Southeast Region to promote forest health and conserve northern spotted owl habitat.

- Purchased \$4.75 million worth of riparian easements from 50 small forest landowners to protect over 1,000 acres of critical streamside habitat.

#### **GOAL: DNR is faithfully implementing its responsibilities as a regulator.**

##### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Activated the Forest Practices Application Review System (FPARS), an internet-based data system that reduces time and costs for processing forest practices applications, and allows public access to application information.
- Produced new Forest Practices rules for private and state lands, which gave strong new protections to 60,000 miles of streams and streamside areas.
- Took the first steps to help family foresters deal with the new requirements to remove forest roads and culverts that damage fish habitat, so as to avoid unintended consequences such as conversion of forestlands to development.

#### **GOAL: DNR's workforce is skilled, knowledgeable, motivated, and effective.**

##### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Guided the agency through three separate reductions-in-force, while keeping all employees continuously informed and working to mitigate the effects on individual employees, such that employees and their unions expressed general satisfaction with the agency's handling of this difficult situation.
- Combined the former Central and Southwest Regions into the new Pacific Cascade Region, which will save close to \$1 million per year beginning in 2005. Improved use of technology, employees' strengths and creativity, and valuable external relationships allowed us to create this efficiency without loss of productivity.
- Worked closely with DNR employees to gather information to help management better determine DNR's capacity to meet our business goals and to demonstrate to employees that management is committed to promoting an environment of dignity and respect.